



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Care And Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: H12M 11

Superclass: SH

Publication date: March 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to provide the knowledge and skills required to assist with the feeding, care and working of the ponies used for carrying deer. The candidate will adopt safe working practices in all activities. The Performance Criteria for this Unit will meet the requirements of the health and safety at work, and wild game meat hygiene regulations.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Gamekeeping (SCQF level 5). The Unit is suitable for NQ level candidates and also as a standalone Unit for professional development for people working with deer ponies in industry.

Outcomes

- 1 Catch, handle and release the pony safely.
- 2 Check the basic health of the pony.
- 3 Care for the grass kept pony.
- 4 Describe the requirements for feeding and watering the pony at grass.
- 5 Identify, fit and care for suitable tack for transporting deer.
- 6 Work the pony over various terrain.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, and no specific prior qualifications are required, it would be beneficial if candidates had some prior experience of ponies.

General information (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Credit points and level

2 National Unit credits at SCQF level 5: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Catch, handle and release the pony safely.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Apply safe and effective techniques for catching the pony.
- (b) Apply safe and effective techniques for releasing the pony.
- (c) Secure the pony safely and effectively.
- (d) Respond appropriately to a variety of pony behaviours.

Outcome 2

Check the basic health of the pony.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the signs of good and ill health in the pony.
- (b) Identify when the pony needs the attention of a farrier and a vet.
- (c) Identify lameness in the horse.
- (d) Identify a variety of common wounds.
- (e) Describe treatment of common wounds and simple lameness.

Outcome 3

Care for the grass kept pony.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the checks that should be carried out on a grass field to ensure that it is safe and suitable for ponies.
- (b) Describe the daily health and welfare checks that should be made when caring for grass kept ponies.
- (c) Identify common parasites which affect the health of the pony.
- (d) Explain the ways in which the effect of parasites can be reduced.
- (e) Groom the grass kept pony in preparation for work.
- (f) Care for the deer pony after work.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

Describe the requirements for feeding and watering the pony at grass.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe when supplementary feeding and restricted grazing may be necessary and how these can be carried out.
- (b) Identify suitable feeds for supplementary feeding to a grass kept pony.
- (c) Identify methods for providing water to a grass kept pony.
- (d) Describe problems which may be encountered when feeding a group of ponies at grass.
- (e) Describe the advantages and disadvantages of methods for providing water to a grass kept pony.

Outcome 5

Identify, fit and care for suitable tack for transporting deer.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify a selection of tack suitable for carrying deer.
- (b) Explain the purposes of a selection of tack suitable for carrying deer.
- (c) Fit tack suitable for carrying deer.
- (d) Carry out the care of tack to ensure cleanliness and safety.

Outcome 6

Work the pony over various terrain.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Lead the pony over various terrain safely.
- (b) Load deer onto the pony safely with assistance.
- (c) Unload deer from the pony safely with assistance.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Safety procedures must be adhered to at all times and Personal Protective Equipment must be worn by candidates to satisfy the required standards.

Written/oral recorded evidence and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

The evidence should be produced under closed-book, supervised conditions. Evidence must show that the candidates are able to:

Outcome 1

- ◆ Catch and release the pony in the field and in the stable.
- ◆ Secure the pony safely by the correct method.
- ◆ Respond to changing situations which must include: the pony being left on its own, introduction of a new pony to a group, varying weather conditions, fresh pony, tired pony.

Outcome 2

- ◆ Identify when the pony needs attention from the farrier.
- ◆ Identify a minimum of three occasions when it would be necessary to call the vet.
- ◆ Describe the need for and frequency of tetanus vaccinations.
- ◆ Describe a minimum of four signs of good health.
- ◆ Describe a minimum of four signs of ill health (note — these must not be the opposite of those identified as signs of good health).
- ◆ Identify fore and hind leg lameness.
- ◆ Describe the symptoms and treatment of one simple lameness.
- ◆ Identify two types of common wounds and their treatment.

Outcome 3

- ◆ Inspect a field to check for suitability and safety for ponies and report the findings.
- ◆ Observe a live pony, correctly commenting on its state of health.
- ◆ Describe the daily health and welfare checks that should be made when caring for ponies at grass.
- ◆ Identify symptoms of common parasites, to include ticks, lice and worms.
- ◆ Describe two ways in which management of grazing can assist in the reduction of the worm burden.
- ◆ Describe how use of chemical wormers can assist in the reduction of the worm burden
- ◆ Groom a grass kept pony in preparation for work.
- ◆ Care for the pony after work which must include check for injury, rub down and grooming.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 4

- ◆ Identify three feeds suitable for supplementary feeding, one of which will be a grass replacement feed.
- ◆ Identify two methods of providing water safely to ponies in the field.
- ◆ Describe when each of supplementary feeding and restricted grazing may be necessary and how these are carried out. The description must cover roughage and hard feed, the need for restricting grazing for ponies at grass, and the times of year when this may be necessary.
- ◆ Describe a minimum of two problems which may be encountered when feeding a group of ponies at grass and how these problems can be overcome.
- ◆ List three different means of providing water to ponies in the field and provide two advantages and two disadvantages for each system.

Outcome 5

- ◆ Identify the snaffle bridle and parts of the bridle.
- ◆ Identify the deer saddle and parts of the saddle.
- ◆ Explain the functions of the identified tack.
- ◆ Clean tack to ensure cleanliness and safety.
- ◆ Fit tack to the pony which is suitable for carrying deer.

Outcome 6

- ◆ Lead the pony over various terrain safely. Terrain must include undulating ground and soft conditions.
- ◆ Load a deer safely onto the pony with assistance.
- ◆ Unload a deer safely from the pony with assistance.

Note — evidence can be holistic or Outcome by Outcome.

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

This is an optional Unit within the National Certificate in Gamekeeping (SCQF level 5). The Unit is suitable for NQ level candidates and also as a standalone Unit for professional development for people working with deer ponies in industry. The Unit is aligned to the following Equine and Gamekeeping Industry National Occupational Standards from LANTRA.

LAN Eq 108	Assist with catching and leading horses
LAN Eq 202	Provide feed and water to horses
LAN Eq 203	Carry out routine care and monitor the health and welfare of horses
LAN Eq 207	Clean and groom horses for appearance
LAN Eq 208	Assess grazing land for the introduction of horses
LAN Eq 209	Turn out and maintain horses at grass
LAN Eq 210	Apply, fit and maintain horse tack for exercise
LAN Eq 213	Care for horses after exercise
LAN Eq 303	Deliver basic health care treatments to horses
LAN Eq 306	Promote the health and well-being of horses
LAN Eq 307	Tack up horses for specialist work
LAN Eq 312	Manage horses when turned out
LAN Eq 313	Prepare and maintain grazing land for horses
Ga10	Care for animals used in support of gamekeeping and wildlife management
CU41	Handle and care for animals to enable them to work effectively

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The purpose of this Unit is to provide the knowledge and skills required to assist with the feeding, care and working of ponies used for carrying deer. Deer ponies, sometimes known as 'stalking ponies,' are hardy breeds used to extract deer carcasses from hills, with a specially designed saddle.

Candidates will adopt safe working practices in all activities to avoid injury to themselves and the pony. The Performance Criteria for this Unit meet the requirements of the health and safety at work, and wild game meat hygiene regulations.

Prior to undertaking this Unit no specific prior qualifications are required. It is not necessary, but would be beneficial if candidates had some prior experience of ponies.

Outcome 1

In this Outcome candidates will gain practical experience of handling ponies safely. They will learn how to catch and release ponies, identify safe areas to tie them up and use the correct method to secure them. When securing the pony safely by the correct method, this can be done in the stable or yard. They will learn how to respond to the pony's behaviour in different situations which should include weather conditions, being left on their own, and response to other ponies.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 2

Candidates will learn how to check for basic health and soundness in the pony. Recognition of the signs of health should be observed on a regular basis with a variety of ponies.

Signs of good health:

- ◆ bright eyes
- ◆ salmon pink membranes
- ◆ standing square on front feet, may rest a hind foot
- ◆ no discharge from nostrils
- ◆ shiny coat
- ◆ supple skin
- ◆ alert
- ◆ firm droppings

Signs of ill health:

- ◆ discharge from nostrils
- ◆ pale or red membranes
- ◆ resting foreleg
- ◆ dull coat
- ◆ dry, tight skin
- ◆ no interest in surroundings
- ◆ pot belly
- ◆ ribs easily seen
- ◆ obese — ribs cannot be felt
- ◆ loose droppings

Emphasis should be placed on the accuracy of reporting these signs of health. Condition of the feet should be included in this check and candidates should know when the attention of a farrier is required, such as when the foot needs trimmed or the pony requires shoeing.

Common wounds and lameness should be discussed in terms of cause, treatment and prevention where applicable. Injuries should include clean cuts, tears, punctures, bruises and swellings. Foot injuries should include bruising, punctures and abscesses.

Candidates should know when the health of the pony requires the attention of the vet, of the need for tetanus vaccinations and the frequency for booster vaccinations to maintain immunity. Where possible, real life situations are recommended for delivery, but as this will not always be possible simulations or pictures could be used.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

Candidates will learn how to check that fields are safe and suitable for horses. Checks should include fencing, water availability, shelter, grazing quality and the amount of space for each pony living on grass, poisonous plants and other hazards such as ponds, litter, etc. Candidates will learn about the daily care of the ponies including assessment of health and condition. Candidates should recognise when the pony is cold.

An outline of the effect that parasites can have on the pony should include signs of infestation and how to alleviate parasite burden. Parasites should include lice, ticks, and internal worms. Removal of ticks should be discussed and the geographical areas and conditions where ponies are more likely to be susceptible to these.

Pasture management to assist in reduction of worm burden should include removal of droppings, grazing with other species such as sheep, rotation of grazing and adequate room given for amount of animals and quality of grazing.

Candidates should be given an outline of the use of chemical wormers to assist in reduction of the worm burden and the frequency of their use.

Candidates should be able to identify items of the grooming kit which must include a hoof pick, dandy brush, body brush and curry comb. They must know how to groom the pony for work to minimise the risk of rubs from tack on dirty ponies. Candidates should pick out the ponies' feet, also checking for injury and the need for a farrier.

On return from work candidates must be aware of the importance of checking for rubs or any other injury.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 4

Watering systems should be inspected and should include buckets, water troughs, streams, advantages and disadvantages of each should be discussed.

Candidates should be aware of the necessity to check body condition on a regular basis and learn about providing supplementary feeding including roughage and hard feed, and of the need for restricting grazing for ponies at grass and the times of year when this may be necessary.

Required roughage feeds include:

- ◆ hay
- ◆ haylage

Required hard roughage feeds include:

- ◆ pony nuts
- ◆ pasture mix or similar
- ◆ crushed or rolled barley
- ◆ sugar beet

Emphasis should be made on safety and how problems associated with feeding a group of ponies at grass can be avoided. Problems should include fighting, kicking, bullying, and exclusion of some ponies.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 5

Candidates will learn how to identify the parts of the snaffle bridle and the deer saddle
Bridle. Snaffle bridle parts include:

- ◆ head piece
- ◆ browband
- ◆ throat lash
- ◆ cheek piece
- ◆ bit
- ◆ nose band
- ◆ reins

Deer saddle parts include:

- ◆ pommel
- ◆ cantle
- ◆ gullet
- ◆ saddle pad
- ◆ D rings
- ◆ girth straps
- ◆ girths
- ◆ breastplate
- ◆ breeching
- ◆ surcingle

Candidates will learn the function of the parts and how to fit the tack to the pony. They will learn how to care for tack to ensure its safety, longevity and comfort for the horse and care for hygiene purposes after carrying deer off the hill.

Outcome 6

Candidates will learn how to lead the pony safely over various terrain, they must be made aware of the need to give the pony adequate freedom of its head and neck to balance itself over rough or soft ground. They should be aware of their own position in relation to the pony to minimise risk of being stood on.

When loading and unloading the deer from the pony, candidates should know how to use assistance to minimise risk of injury or strain to themselves or the pony. Candidates will be able to identify suitable areas for loading/unloading which will minimise the chance of cross contamination to the deer carcass from contaminants such as animal dung. They should be able to secure the load in a way which is balanced for the pony to carry and to know the importance of checking the girth strap and load during transit.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF level 5)

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Practical demonstrations followed by repeated supervised candidate practice would be suitable for all practical tasks. Candidates could work in small supervised groups to do practical activities such as field checks, welfare checks, feeding, grooming, fitting and cleaning tack, simulated loading and unloading of deer using a dummy of same size and weight as deer, leading ponies over various terrain.

Opportunities should be taken to observe lameness and treatment of minor wounds. Where this is not possible, simulations of recognition and treatment of minor wounds on a live horse should be used.

Visits to estates which use deer ponies would be advantageous, with candidates able to observe the ponies at work.

Suitable classroom activities for this Unit include tutor led group discussion, use of the internet or literature to research and discuss how ponies are used in this work, as well as types of feed, tack, minor ailments, treatments, etc. Online video clips could be used to view ponies working, minor ailments, and treatment.

Opportunities to observe the farrier at work, and other professionals such as a vet, would be useful.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches to assessment are suggested:

Outcome 1 could be assessed with a practical and oral exercise

Outcome 2 PC (a) (b) (c) and Outcome 3 PC (b) could be integrated and assessed with a practical and oral exercise. PC (d) and (e) could be assessed with a written/oral exercise.

Outcome 3: PC (a) could be assessed with a practical and oral exercise. PC (c) and (d) could be assessed with a written/oral exercise.

Outcome 4: PC (b) and (c) could be assessed with a practical and oral exercise. PC (a) and (d) could be assessed with a written/oral exercise.

Outcome 5, Outcome 6 and Outcome 3 PC (e) and (f), could be integrated and assessed with a practical and oral exercise.

It is suggested that the written/oral assessments for Outcomes 2, 3 and 4 could be integrated in the form of short answer questions to provide a paper taking no longer than one hour.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Care and Working of the Deer Pony (SCQF Level 5)

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidates will feed, care for and work ponies used for carrying deer.

Candidates will learn how to:

- ◆ catch, handle and release ponies safely whilst observing a variety of pony behaviours
- ◆ identify and describe signs of good and ill health
- ◆ perform checks on fields for safety and describe daily health and welfare checks made on ponies
- ◆ feed ponies appropriately throughout the year
- ◆ identify, care for and fit a variety of tack suitable for working the pony
- ◆ lead, load and unload deer safely, with assistance

This means that as candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills of *Communication*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*. Dependant on how the research is carried out, candidates may develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology*.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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